

Message Text

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S E C R E T BELGRADE 6169

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1. A RELIABLE SOURCE WITH EXCELLENT CONTACTS IN THE YUGOSLAV MILITARY TOLD ME THAT IN MARCH 1973 AT THE HOME OF LT.COL.GEN. NIKOLA LEKIC, DEPUTY COMMANDER OF AIR AND AIR DEFENSE FORCES, VERY SHARP CRITICISM OF TITO POLICY WITH THE SOVIET UNION WAS EXPRESSED BY HIGH RANKING YUGOSLAV OFFICERS. THE SOURCE CHARACTERIZED THE CONVERSATION AS ALMOST TREASONOUS IN THAT THE OFFICERS PRESENT REGARDED TITO AS FOOLISHLY PURSUING A POLICY TOO CLOSE TO THE SOVIETS.

2. THE SOURCE SAID THAT SUBSEQUENT TO THAT OCCASION THE YUGOSLAV OFFICERS INVOLVED HAVE SAID VERY LITTLE AND HAVE BEEN VERY CAREFUL NOT TO EXPRESS POINTEDLY ANTI-SOVIET VIEWS BUT IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS THEY HAVE DROPPED REMARKS ALONG THE LINES THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION REMINDS THEM OF 1948. ONE OTHER GENERAL IDENTIFIED AS EITHER BEING PRESENT AT LIKIC' HOUSE IN MARCH '73 OR CARRYING THE SAME VIEWS IS GENERAL ILIC WHO HAS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS BEEN PARTICULARLY CANDID WITH ME. (REFTEL).
SILBERMAN

SECRET

NNN

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